

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-26 were pending prior to amendment. New claims 27-30 have been added. Claims 27-30 are supported in the specification; see, e.g., Figure 5 and the associated description. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-26 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,955 to Narad et al. ("Narad"). Claims 3 and 8 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Narad and U.S. Patent No. 6,484,257 to Ellis ("Ellis").

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, the rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. The Informalities

Claims 15, 23, and 24 have been amended to correct the noted informalities, rendering the objection moot.

II. The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 17 stands rejected as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 17 has been amended to recite that "each additional mechanism configured to communicate with the classification forwarding device to perform an encryption-related procedure on the packet if the packet is encrypted."

Note that, if the packet is encrypted, it may be decrypted and then subsequently encrypted. Therefore, the encryption-related procedure may be encryption or decryption. The specification discloses that the decrypting forwarding elements have both encryption and decryption capabilities (see, e.g., page 7, lines 7-10 of the specification). Therefore, both decryption and encryption are supported in the specification.

III. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 103

Claim 1

Claim 1 is patentable over Narad because the cited portion of Narad neither teaches nor suggests "determining at a first classifying forwarding element if a classification parameter is available for Internet Protocol security traffic that indicates a route for the IPsec traffic and classifying said traffic if available," or "if said classification parameter is not available, and the IPsec traffic is encrypted then decrypting traffic in a decrypting forwarding element after said traffic has passed through said classifying element, and determining the classification parameter for the IPsec traffic at the decrypting forwarding element."

The cited portions of Narad do teach that, based on classification, the packet may be decrypted. However, the cited portions do not teach the particular method recited in claim 1. For example, the cited portions do not teach "determining ... if a

classification parameter is available for IPsec traffic." Since the cited portions do not teach this feature of claim 1, they certainly do not teach the feature of claim 1 dependent on the determination ("if said classification parameter is not available...")

Since the cited portions of Narad neither teach nor suggest these features of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Narad.

Claims 2-5

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is patentable for at least the additional reason that Narad neither teaches nor suggests "forwarding other IPsec traffic included in a traffic stream with the IPsec traffic based on the classification parameter," as recited in claim 5.

There is no such teaching in the cited portion of Narad. That is, there is no teaching that "other IPsec traffic included in the traffic stream with the IPsec traffic" (for example, other packets in the same stream) be forwarded based on the classification parameter for the IPsec traffic.

For at least this additional reason, claim 5 is patentable over Narad.

Claims 6-15 and 17-26

Claims 6-15 and 17-26 include features similar to claims 1-5, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to claims 1-5.

New claims 27-30

New claims 27-30 include additional features not taught or suggested by the references.

For example, Claim 27 recites a plurality of decrypting forwarding elements in communication with the output of the first classifying forwarding element. Claim 27 further recites one or more second classifying forwarding elements in communication with one or more outputs of the decrypting forwarding elements.

Claims 28 further recites one or more servers in communication with the output of at least one of the one or more second classifying forwarding elements, while claim 29 recites that the control element includes security information for the one or more servers. Claim 30 adds the feature that the security information includes one or more access tokens.

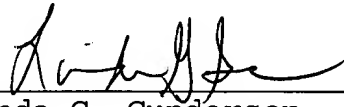
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks herein, claims 1-15 and 17-30 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Enclosed is a 158.00 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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